

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 were pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action of May 26, 2005, claims 1-11 were rejected.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 9 were rejected as anticipated by Fujimori et al. (US Pub. 2002/0075441). Claims 3, 6 and 7 were rejected as obvious in view of Fujimori et al. and Miura (USP 5,877,836). Claims 8 and 11 were rejected as obvious in view of Fujimori et al., Miura and Kaise et al. (USP 6,788,372).

In response, without conceding to the position taken by the examiner in the Office Action, and without waiving any right to challenge the arguments, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that at least one projection is provided for each pixel and each projection is positioned at a substantially central position, relative to the boundaries of the pixel, in a direction perpendicular to the rubbing direction. New independent claim 16 also recites this feature and further recites that the projection is arranged at a height so as to serve as a spacer extending between, and to each of, the driving substrate and the counter substrate thereby defining a gap distance between the substrates. Independent claims 9 has been amended solely to provide better sentence structure. Claims 12-15 and 17-19 are new dependent claims added to recite various additional features described in the specification. Claims 6-8 have been cancelled.

The amendments add no new matter. The support for claim 14 can be found in connection with paragraph [0037].

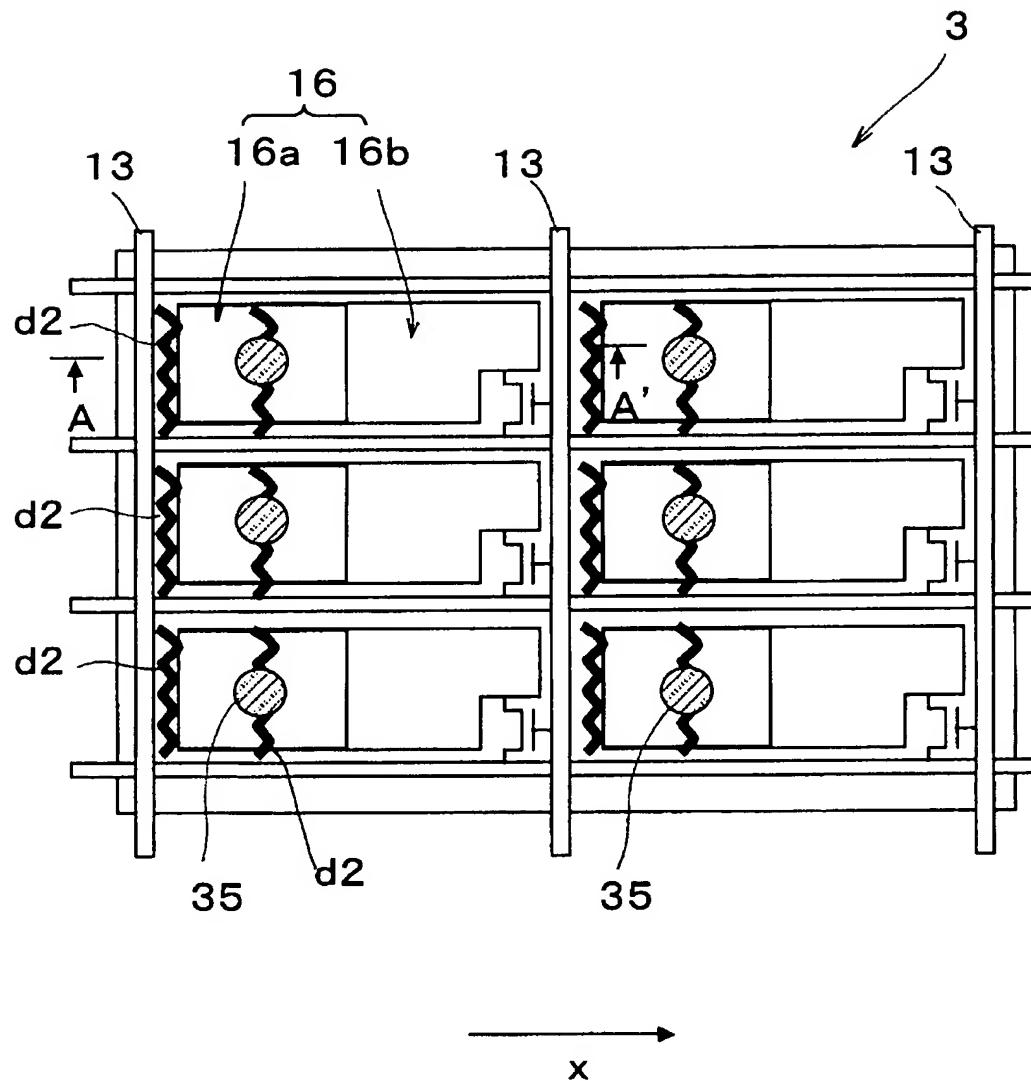
Regarding the rejection of claims 1-5, and new claims 16-19, each of independent claims 1 and 16 recites the positioning of a projection at substantially central relative to the boundaries of the pixel and perpendicular to the rubbing direction. In contrast, in Fujimori et al, the rubbing direction is into and out of the drawing sheets in figures 5-7. The "projection" 10 clearly is not substantially central relative to the pixel or its boundaries in the left-right direction of the drawing sheets. Accordingly, there is no fair teaching or suggestion of this limitation, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejections of claims 6-8 and 11, those rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

Regarding the rejection of claims 9-10, and new claims 13 and 14, independent claim 9 recites that a reflective display portion and a transmissive display portion are provided in each of the pixels in that order in the rubbing direction. Figure 2 of the present application illustrates this

well and is reproduced here (16a is the reflective portion, 16b is the transmissive portion and x is the rubbing direction):

FIG. 2



In contrast, in Fujimori et al, the rubbing direction is perpendicular to the arrangement of the reflective display portion and the transmissive display portion. The rubbing direction is in

and out of the drawing sheets 5 and 7 as is clear from figure 6 of Fujimori et al. Accordingly, Fujimori et al. provides not fair teaching or suggestion to construct a display as claimed in claims 9, 10, 13 and 14. The rejection should be withdrawn.

Regarding new claims 16-19, claim 16 additionally recites that the projection extends between and to each of the substrates. It is submitted that none of the cited references fairly teaches or suggests spacer projections as recited in the claims. Fujimori et al discloses projections that extend between a raised interlayer insulating layer 3 and substrate 11. As such, the projection does not serve to split a reverse-tilt domain. Indeed, Fujimori et al., specifically teaches to not extend the projections between, and extending to each of, the substrates 1 and 11 and that the projections do not define the gap distance between the substrates. According to Fujumori et al.:

Since the interlayer insulation layer 3 easily becomes irregular in thickness in fabrication, the columnar spacers 10 are disposed on the opposite substrate 11, not on the substrate 1 (not on the interlayer insulation layer 3).

Paragraph [093].

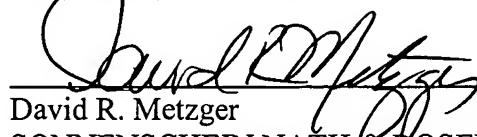
Therefore, the transmission cell gap d.sub.b is dictated by the thickness of the interlayer insulation layer 3 underlying the reflection section 2a and the reflection cell gap d.sub.a, that is, the height of the columnar spacers 10. Here, the columnar spacers 10 needs to be designed in advance with such a height to contact the interlayer insulation layer 3.

Paragraph [133].

It is submitted that none of the other references, nor any combination of them, fairly discloses or suggests spacer projections such as are recited in the present claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-5, 9, 10 and 12-19 are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 32,919)

David R. Metzger
SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P. O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station - Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
Telephone (312) 876 8000
Customer No. 26263